

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated March 9, 2007. Claims 1-36 and 67 are currently pending and stand rejected in the application. Of these, claims 1, 20 and 67 are independent. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 20, 24-30 and 67 are amended and claims 3, 5 22-23 have been canceled. Claims 68-70 have been added and claims 37-66, which were previously withdrawn in response to a restriction requirement have also been canceled herein. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4, 6-21, 24-36 and 67-69 remain pending in this application. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the pending claims have been made without prejudice and solely in order to expedite prosecution of the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the amendments and comments set forth herein, and respectfully maintain that this application is in condition for allowance.

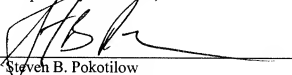
Allowability of the claims

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 5-8, 23 and 25 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 67 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 5 and the intervening claim 3. Likewise, independent claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 23 and the intervening claim 22. Claims 6 and 25 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 68 and 70, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of the rejection.

No fee other than the to month extension of time submitted herewith is believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. Nevertheless, if the Commissioner deems any fee to be now or hereafter due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge that fee to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of this application are respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HB', is written over a horizontal line.

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